

PERCEPTIONS OF VICTIMIZATION, IMPULSIVITY, AND PERSONALITY TRAITS

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PERCEPTIONS OF VICTIMIZATION, IMPULSIVITY,
AND PERSONALITY TRAITS

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ABSTRACT

Victimization is a problem that affects many populations, but college students may be predisposed to getting victimized or engaging in victimizing behaviors. College students are typically found in the age cohort that is deemed to have the highest chance to experience a sexual victimization situation as well as commit violent crimes. For various reasons, these individuals need to be aware of the dangers and possibilities that loom in their everyday lives. This research investigated correlates of personality and impulsivity with perceptions of sexual assault. The present study was able to establish a relationship between impulsivity and perceptions of sexual assault or victimization. In particular, males were less likely to perceive a situation as victimization than their female counterparts. Additionally, positive correlations were found between impulsivity traits and personality traits such as extraversion and openness.

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INTRODUCTION

Victimization can manifest itself in various ways, but at its core it is the process of singling one or more people out for the purpose of cruel or unjust treatment. However, one of the more severe forms of victimization is unwanted sexual advancements or sexual assault. Of particular concern is that over half of all rape or sexual assault victims are individuals from the age of 18-34 (Department of Justice, 2015; Perkins, 1997). Perkins also highlights in a Bureau of Justice Special Report the finding that 15-24 year olds account for the highest rate of perpetrating violent crimes including but not limited to sexual assault and rape. The women in this group make up almost 56% of all sexual assault crimes. This staggering percentage is worthy of note because 18-21 year olds committed the highest number of violent crimes and also fall into the age group represented in universities across the world (Perkins, 1997).

Sexual assault is defined by law as any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient (U.S. Department of Justice, 2016). Within the definition of sexual assault are sexual activities such as forced sexual intercourse, forcible sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling, and attempted rape (U.S. Department of Justice, 2016). The definition provided by the U.S. Department of Justice can be interpreted in many different ways. The wording of explicit consent helps to explain that because two individuals have been partying together does not mean one automatically gets to have intercourse with or even touch the other individual.

The purpose of this research was to assess if those who have higher impulsivity,

and/or neuroticism were less likely to identify sexual assault in a scenario. The study investigated impulsivity, personality factors, and perception of assault via self-report surveys.

Personality Traits

Extraversion is typically associated with individuals who are sociable, adventurous, energetic, enthusiastic, and outgoing (John & Srivastava, 1999). When presented with a sexual assault story, extroverts are more likely to believe it is fictitious than real (Peace, Porter, & Almon, 2012). This finding supports the idea that possessing a trait such as extraversion could cause an individual to commit a sexual assault without even realizing it is such a thing. Due to the attraction to adventure and being dominant, extroverts are likely to push the boundaries of what is deemed socially acceptable to get a thrill.

Openness personality traits are often associated with curiosity, imagination, unconventionality, and wide interests (John & Srivastava, 1999). Openness has been linked to increased odds of victimizing behaviors in online and offline environments (Peluchette, Karl, Wood, Williams, 2015; Nedelec, 2016).

Neuroticism is generally associated with individuals who are tense, irritable, non-content, and not self-confident (John & Srivastava, 1999). There is a known link between individuals who suffer sexual abuse as a child and being more likely to perpetrate as adults (Worling, 2001; Hunter & Figueredo, 2000). However, it is not often discussed what

mediates the link between the abused and likelihood to perpetrate because not all victims become perpetrators. Boillat, Deuring, Pflueger, Graf, and Rosburg (2017) argued that neuroticism is the mediator between these two situations. Individuals who have lower resiliency when they suffer sexual abuse as a child were more likely to develop neurotic personality traits, which were linked with an increased risk of perpetrating against children later in life (Boillat et al., 2017).

Conscientiousness in individuals is often linked with traits such as non-impulsive, organized, thorough, and not careless (John & Srivastava, 1999). One of the main descriptors, non-impulsive, is a good sign that this personality trait would be negatively correlated with impulsivity. Individuals convicted of rape reported lower levels of conscientiousness in a study conducted by Voller and Long (2010).

Agreeableness is often linked with warmth, sympathy, forgiveness, and straightforwardness (John & Srivastava, 1999). Rape perpetrators were less likely to endorse these types of personality traits than their non-perpetrator counterparts, yet they were more likely to be vulnerable (Voller & Long, 2010). This could be due to the link previously cited between older perpetrators having experienced some form of sexual abuse as a child. Due to their prior victimization they are more vulnerable, but are less likely to seek out agreeable behaviors (Voller & Long, 2010).

Impulsivity

Impulsivity can be broken down into three main categories: attentional, motor, and non-planning. Attentional impulsivity has to do with how long an individual can focus on a task and cognitive instability. Individuals high in attentional impulsivity are less likely to focus on a task for extended periods of time, or they will jump between tasks rather than focusing on one thing. Motor impulsivity is related to perseverance and control over impulses of motor function. Individuals high in motor impulsivity will often be fidgety, not be able to do physical tasks for long without getting bored, or even will not sit still in class for long. Finally, non-planning encompasses self-control and complexity of a task that an individual can create or solve. Individuals high in non-planning impulsivity have little self-control over their impulses and struggle to create or solve complex tasks. The struggle is due to their inability to moderate their impulses to stay focused on the task at hand (Patton, Stanford, & Barratt, 1995).

Research Questions and Hypotheses

Based on the literature discussed previously, the following hypotheses and research questions were formed:

Research Question 1: Is there a relationship between perception of victimization and impulsivity?

Hypothesis 1: It was predicted that individuals who reported low perceived victimization would be more likely to report high impulsivity.

Research Question 2: Is there a correlation between perception of victimization, impulsivity, and personality traits?

Hypothesis 2: It was predicted that individuals who reported a high-perceived victimization would also report to exhibit traits that are higher in agreeableness, empathy, and impulse control.

METHOD

Participants

One hundred forty-three undergraduate students from Angelo State University were recruited for the current study. Participants were offered extra credit or course credit in exchange for their participation. Nine data sets were omitted due to incomplete responses or inaccurate data. The remaining data sets consisted of first-year students (41.3%), second-year students (25.9%), third-year students (23.1%), fourth-year students (8.4%) and fifth-year or more students (1.4%) (*Table 1*). The majority of participants identified as female (82.5%) (*Table 3*) and Caucasian (50.3%). Latino/a or Hispanic was the second most reported ethnicity at fifty-six participants and 39.2% (see *Table 2*).

Classification	Frequency	Percent
College first-year	59	41.3%
College second-year	37	25.9%
College third-year	33	23.1%
College fourth-year	12	8.4%
College fifth-year or more	2	1.4%
Total	143	100%

Table 1: *Age of Participants*

Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
Caucasian	72	50.3%
Black/African American	7	4.9%
Latino/a or Hispanic	56	39.2%
Asian/Asian American	5	3.5%
Other (please specify)	3	2.1%
Total	143	100%

Table 2: *Ethnicity of Participants*

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	25	17.5%
Female	118	82.5%
Total	143	100%

Table 3: *Sex of Participants*

Materials

The current study used the following self-report surveys to measure perceived victimization, impulsivity, and personality traits: Demographic Questionnaire, Sexual Assault Vignette (SAV; Maurer, 2016), Barratt Impulsivity Scale 11 (BIS-11; Patton, Stanford, & Barratt, 1995), and Big Five Inventory (BFI; John & Srivastava, 1999).

Demographic Data. The demographic questionnaire (see Appendix A) collected participants' ethnicity, sex, and year in school.

Sexual Assault. The seven-item self-report questionnaire (SAV; Maurer, 2016) measured perception of victimization in a fictitious sexual assault scenario (see Appendix B). This questionnaire consists of two different sections. Three questions assessed if the participant read the scenario. One question from this section was, "Did the characters already know each other?" The participant then would answer yes or no. The four other items in this questionnaire measured perception of victimization. A sample item of this section includes, "Matt had sex with Jenny while she was passed out. Using the above scale, how acceptable is that?" Participants then selected which number they most agreed with, ranging from 1- totally unacceptable to 5 - totally acceptable. A single score was created by adding these four questions together. In order to determine high or low perception of victimization, two categories were created by splitting the median to determine if the participant had a high or low perception of victimization.

Impulsivity. The 30-item Barratt Impulsivity Scale 11 (BIS-11; Patton et al., 1995) was used to determine the behavioral and personality attributes in impulsiveness (see Appendix C). Participants were asked to report on a scale of 1 (rarely/never) to 4 (almost

always/always) how often they think or behave in a certain manner. A sample item includes, “I get easily bored when solving thought problems.” Scores were generated for three second order factors and six first order factors. The second order factors included attentional, motor, and non-planning. The first order factors included attention, cognitive instability, motor, perseverance, self-control, and cognitive complexity. Scores were obtained by adding the scores of associated items.

Inventory. The 44-item Big Five Inventory (BFI; John & Srivastava, 1999) was used to measure the five main personality traits (see Appendix D). Participants were asked to rate themselves on forty-four questions using a 5-point Likert scale (one equals disagree strongly, five equals agree strongly). A sample item includes, “Is curious about many different things.” This questionnaire determines how much each participant possesses the five main personality traits. A score was obtained for each trait (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and openness) by adding the scores of associated items.

Procedure

Before the experiment began, approval was received from the Institutional Review Board and funding was received through the ASU Undergraduate Faculty-Mentored Research Grant. Students were able to access a description of the study through the online website Sona-Systems. If participants chose to continue with the study, they were directed to the study on Psychdata. The experiment was conducted completely online via the host site, Psychdata, so that participants’ identities/data were protected and kept secure. Psychdata is a secure research host site and data were only accessed on a password-protected computer in a secure laboratory.

Participants were presented with a randomly generated participant number upon clicking to participate in the study. After entering the study link, participants were provided an informed consent agreement form that provided them information that their responses would be kept confidential and were required to sign the consent document using their provided random participant number in order to proceed. Participants then completed the Demographic Questionnaire. Upon completion, they were administered the Sexual Assault Vignette (SAV; Maurer, 2016). Next, participants were asked to complete the Barratt Impulsivity Scale 11(BIS-11; Patton et al., 1995) and the Big Five Inventory (BFI; John & Srivastava, 1999). Upon completion of the questionnaires, participants were provided a debriefing statement.

RESULTS

MANOVA

A one-way Multivariate Analysis of Variances (MANOVA; *Figure 1*) was conducted for two different tests. The first MANOVA (low-perceived victimization and high-perceived victimization) was conducted on the personality trait variables: extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and openness. A one-way multivariate analysis of variance on openness and high vs. low perceived victimization revealed a moderately significant main effect, as indicated by Wilks' Lambda = .958, $F(5, 137) = 1.21, p > .05$. Participants who scored a low-perceived victimization had moderately significant lower levels of openness ($M = 33.10, SD = 6.13$) in comparison to those who scored a high-perceived victimization ($M = 34.94, SD = 5.67$). Significant univariate effects were obtained for openness, $F(1, 141) = 3.38, p > .05$.

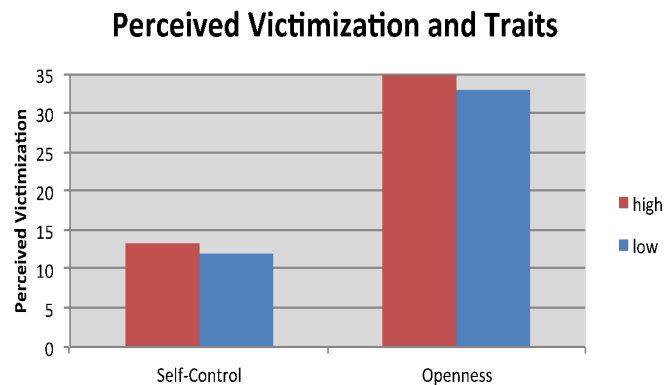


Figure 1: Significant MANOVA ($p < .05$) Finding

A one-way MANOVA (high-perceived victimization vs. low-perceived victimization) was conducted on the impulsiveness variables: attentional, motor, and nonplanning (second order); as well as six first order factors: cognitive instability, attention, motor, perseverance, cognitive complexity, and self-control. A one-way multivariate analysis of variance (high vs. low-perceived victimization) conducted on motor (second order) (*Figure 2*) revealed a significant main effect, as indicated by Wilks' Lambda = .883, $F(6, 134) = 2.97, p < .05$. Participants who scored a low-perceived victimization had a significantly higher level of second order motor ($M = 24.13, SD = 5.50$) in comparison to those who scored a high-perceived victimization ($M = 22.10, SD = 5.45$). Significant univariate effects were obtained for second order motor, $F(1, 139) = 4.80, p < .05$.

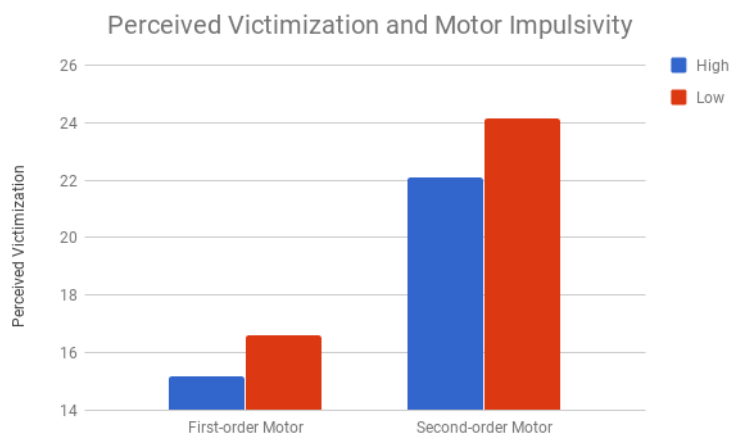


Figure 2: Significant MANOVA ($p < .05$) Impulsivity Finding

In addition, a one-way MANOVA (high vs. low-perceived victimization) on motor (first order) (*Figure 2*) revealed a significant main effect, as indicated by Wilks' Lambda = .883, $F(6, 134) = 2.97, p < .05$. Participants who scored a low-perceived victimization had a significantly higher level of first order motor ($M = 16.60, SD = 4.12$) in comparison to those who scored a high-perceived victimization ($M = 15.17, SD = 4.39$). Significant univariate effects were obtained for motor (first order), $F(1, 139) = 3.95, p < .05$.

Finally, a one-way MANOVA on self-control and high vs. low-perceived victimization revealed a significant main effect, as indicated by Wilks' Lambda = .883, $F(6, 134) = 2.97, p < .05$ (*Figure 1*). Participants who scored a low-perceived victimization had a significantly lower level of self-control ($M = 12.04, SD = 3.42$) in comparison to those who scored a high-perceived victimization ($M = 13.40, SD = 4.60$). Significant univariate effects were obtained for self-control, $F(1, 139) = 4.05, p < .05$. No other BFI or BIS-11 items were found to be statistically significant.

ANOVA

A one-way Univariate Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) revealed a significant main effect for sex (male vs. female) for the scenario score (a sum of the scores obtained on the Sexual Assault Vignette 4 item questionnaire). Males ($M = 13.36, SD = 1.50$) scored significantly lower than females ($M = 14.03, SD = 1.287$) on indicating if the scenario was a victimization, $F(1, 143) = 5.34, p < .05$ (*Figure 3*). These results indicated that females are more likely to perceive a situation as victimization than males are.

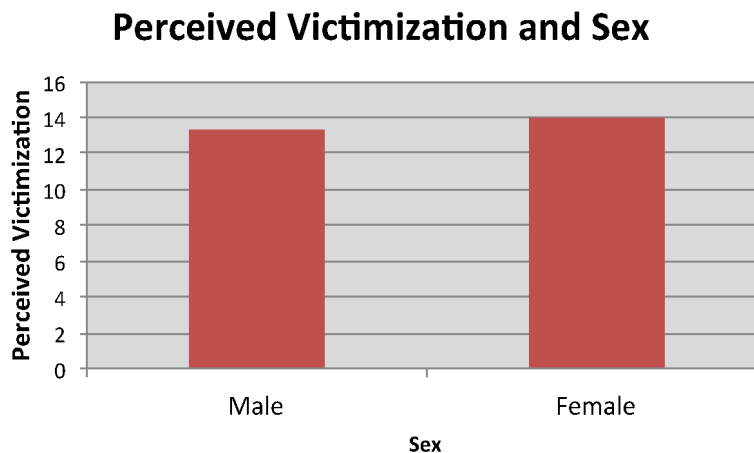


Figure 3: Significant ANOVA ($p < .05$) Finding

Correlational Analysis

A Pearson correlation (*Table 1*) was conducted to assess the relationships between scenario scores, the BFI categories (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and openness), and the BIS-11 categories (attentional, cognitive instability, attention, motor {second order}, motor {first order}, perseverance, non-planning, cognitive complexity, and self-control). There was a positive correlation between first order motor ($M = 16.03$, $SD = 4.31$), $p < .05$, and scenario score ($M = 13.92$, $SD = 1.35$), as well as between second order motor ($M = 23.34$, $SD = 5.61$), $p < .05$, and scenario score. A higher score in first order motor was likely to indicate a higher score in scenario score. Likewise, a higher score in second order motor was likely to indicate a higher score in scenario score. Both motor scores also contained a positive correlation with extraversion ($M = 24.87$, $SD = 6.22$), $p < .05$ and $p < .05$ respectively. A higher score in motor was likely to show a higher score in

extraversion. There was a positive correlation between extraversion ($M = 24.87$, $SD = 6.22$) and neuroticism ($M = 5.42$, $SD = 5.42$), $p < .001$, and neuroticism was positively correlated with cognitive instability ($M = 7.37$, $SD = 2.11$), $p < .05$. A higher score in extraversion was likely to indicate a higher score in neuroticism, thus indicating a higher score in cognitive instability. Finally, cognitive instability was also positively correlated with non-planning ($M = 24.48$, $SD = 6.05$), $p < .05$. A higher score in cognitive instability was likely to indicate a higher score in non-planning.

CONCLUSION

The results found supported the hypothesis that individuals high in impulsivity are less likely to perceive a situation as victimization. Additionally, the data showed a significant relationship between individuals high in openness personality traits being less likely to perceive a situation as victimization. Individuals who score high in openness are often open to trying new experiences, open-minded to new ideas, curious, and enjoy going beyond his or her comfort zone (McCrae & John, 1992). Due to containing traits such as those previously listed, individuals are less likely to view a sexual assault scenario as such, rather they would likely view it as a new experience or possibly even get a thrill from pushing the limits of his or her own comfort zone due to being less sensitive to the situation (Zajenkovska, Jankowski, Lawrence, & Zajenkowski; 2013). Of particular interest is that participants who scored a low-perceived victimization also scored low on self-control. However, not surprisingly, females scored higher on perception than males. The increased perception of victimization could be attributed to several factors. One factor could be that the victim in the situation was female, so female participants identified with this individual more than they would a male victim. Another factor could be that females are more likely to be sexually assaulted than males throughout their lifetimes, as cited in the introduction, so they more apt to viewing a scenario as assault than their male counterparts. Participants were not asked about prior victimization, however.

The data also revealed a correlation between first and second order motor with scenario scores. Second order motor impulsivity encompasses first order motor as well as perseverance. Those that scored higher in motor impulsivity were more likely to rate the

scenario as a sexual assault situation. High motor impulsivity is related to less control over motor impulses and less perseverance when attempting to control impulses. Therefore, motor impulsivity does not necessarily lead to the impulse of assaulting someone; rather it could be explained as a lack of control over the motor functions that occur once aroused in this scenario. Another correlation found was between motor and extraversion. This correlation could be assumed, as extraversion is typically associated with individuals who are sociable and excited about pushing the boundaries of their comfort zone. Yet another positive correlation found was extraversion and neuroticism. This finding was of particular interest due to neuroticism and extraversion seemingly opposing one another. Neuroticism is typically associated with shy, tense, and not content individuals (John & Srivastava, 1999); while extraversion is typically associated with outgoing, enthusiastic, and assertive individuals (John & Srivastava, 1999). An example of an individual who possesses both of these traits could be a boss who enjoys the assertive aspect of his/her job, but is always tense or irritable because of the strain the extraversion traits put on the neurotic aspects of his/her personality. Finally, neuroticism was correlated with cognitive instability which was correlated with non-planning as well. This finding fits closely to what would be expected of individuals with high neuroticism in their personalities. Cognitive instability is closely related to attention impulsivity, thus the relationship between it and non-planning. Non-planning encompasses self-control and cognitive complexity impulsivity. It is easy to see how one aspect of impulsive behavior can correlate with aspects of impulsivity in cognition, physical impulsivity, and even mood changes.

The data may not be representative of Angelo State University, or society as whole, due to including mostly first-year college students (41.3%), females (82.5%), and Caucasian individuals (50.3%). In order to have a study that is more representative of society, future studies should seek to have a more even distribution of these demographics. As noted previously, a population that is predominantly female could skew the results due to the scenario having a female victim or the fact that females are reportedly victimized at a higher frequency than their male counterparts. Another reason that this data may not be representative could be attributed to the fact that the participants in this study were enrolled in psychology courses. These individuals may have a different view of victimization than individuals who have never taken psychology courses, or even individuals who are not in college. Obtaining data from all fields as well as from individuals not enrolled in college would allow this information to be more applicable and accurate across many demographics. It would also help to validate the findings if the same results were found in various populations.

Future Research

Future research should attempt to attain a more equal gender distribution when investigating perceptions of victimization. Having an even distribution of gender in participants could cause a different result to be found. Also, switching the gender roles in the fictitious vignette may yield a different result. Any variation in the vignette may change the way individuals perceive the victimization, so manipulating the scenario would be an interesting path to pursue.

Another direction that could be taken with these results is to determine if sexual assault awareness and prevention administered at the beginning of college is effective. If it is ineffective, research to determine more effective ways to educate students with lasting information should be done. Many students go through sexual assault awareness courses at the beginning of their collegiate career, so determining it is actually being effective in reducing the prevalence of assault on campuses would be an interesting study. Implementing a vignette like the one used in this study would be a good asset to awareness courses.

Implications

These data could have future implications for a range of professions, as well as for families. Oftentimes when a sexual assault occurs, the focus is put on helping the victim to heal and recover. However, if more cognitive therapy was used with offenders then some assault may be avoidable. For instance, research has supported that the majority of juvenile sex offenders suffered some form of physical abuse prior to their offense and when families were not supportive of their reporting they were more likely to later sexually perpetrate (Worling, 2001; Hunter & Figueredo, 2000). If these children were provided with a supportive home and treatment for their abuse, it is possible that they would be less likely to sexually perpetrate against a younger child.

A profession that could benefit from these data is education. Impulsivity often shows initially as delinquent behavior and low social competencies (Hunter & Figueredo, 2000). If educators knew the outcome of untreated abuse and impulsivity and were trained on detecting the combination of the two, they might be able to get these children help with a school counselor or other professional. Often times children from abusive homes will not be

able to receive psychological care at home, so having educators be able to detect and provide that child with the care he or she needs could help prevent future sexual assaults. “Detecting the causes of juvenile crime is an important educational policy concern as many of these crimes happen during the school day” (Akee, Halliday, & Kwak, p. 1, 2014). This statement supports the idea that educators serve a vital role in detecting the trauma that may have happened to one of their students. The prior assertion that children who suffer sexual abuse often perpetrate against a younger child could support the idea that school is an accessible environment to finding a younger victim. Training teachers to detect the signs of assault coupled with the traits of an impulsive child could prevent a future victimization.

Another profession that could benefit from understanding the relationship of impulsivity, personality traits, and victimization is law. It has been found previously that impulsivity, rather than anger, is a possible indicator for whether or not an individual will commit an offense dealing with sexual assault, or even bullying (Walters & Espelage, 2017). These data support this assertion and further the understanding that individuals high in impulsiveness often do not even perceive what they are doing as criminally wrong. Young individuals were able to reason different sexual aggression scenarios into being non-assault scenarios based on different components such as not being violent enough to constitute sexual assault, something that happens “all the time,” and because people go out for the purpose of hooking up (Tinkler, Beckler, & Clayton, 2018). These individuals did not perceive anything was criminally wrong with the scenario despite legal definitions saying there was. For these reasons, having a law professional such as a lawyer trained in handling offenders with diagnoses other than sexual deviance and sexual deviant offenders would be

beneficial. Non-sexually deviant offenders need a different treatment and punishment than their sexually deviant counterparts. As the current law stands, all sex offenders are put on the sex offender registry as the same and also are not punished based on deviance or psychopathology, rather seriousness of crime. Hamilton (2017) reported that offenders who are found to be not sexually deviant at the time of offense are more likely to take on the characteristics and associate with deviant offenders after being labeled and incarcerated with that title. This supports the idea that punishing and having offenders report based on things other than just their crime might change the outcome of future perpetration. Also, attempts to prevent recidivism with these offenders would need to be approached in a different manner than with sexually deviant or repeat sexual offense criminals. Konopasek (2015) found that sex offenders who were not rated high in sexual deviance were less likely to have high recidivism when a full disclosure of their sexual acts occurred. However, if the sex offender rated sexually deviant they struggled to remain in treatment, thus not disclosing their sexual acts, and more likely to reoffend (Konopasek, 2015). Non-sexually deviant offenders benefit more for treatment such as therapy, while sexually deviant offenders do not benefit as much from therapy related treatments. This further supports the assertion that law professionals need to be trained to punish and order treatment based on more than just offense.

A third field this research could be beneficial to is social work. Social workers are the mediator between the individual who may have committed a sexual assault or be the victim of sexual assault and the community, law, and social organizations that affect their clients. Social workers are tasked with helping individuals create pro-social behaviors and to help integrate them into society. Like previously stated, the needs and responsiveness of those

who commit sexual assaults largely depends on their personality traits and whether or not they score as sexually deviant. Bonta and Andrews (2007) found that when offenders were presented with a risk-need-responsivity based rehabilitation program with their assigned social worker recidivism was reduced and offenders had better rehabilitation outcomes. This program highlighted focusing on the risk factors the offender had, tailoring the rehabilitation to those needs, and measuring how responsive the offender was to treatment. Thus, if the social workers could identify if the offense was due to personality risks, such as impulsiveness, he/she could tailor the rehabilitation to focus on the need for impulse control and education rather than focusing on sexually deviant factors. Also, it was found that social workers, and those working with offenders in general, had a greater sense of accomplishment and understanding when supported with psychologically informed practice (Bruce, Horgan, Kerr, Cullen, & Russell, 2016). Providing social workers and all those working directly with individuals who may have committed a sexual offense with information on their psychological status and how it may have affected their choices surrounding the offense could drastically change the competency, responsiveness, and success of the relationship between client and social worker.

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APPENDIX A

Demographics Questionnaire

Please answer the following questions honestly and openly. Remember your answers are confidential and for important research purposes.

What is your ethnicity?

- ☐ Caucasian
- ☐ Black/African American
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino/a
- ☐ Asian/Asian American
- ☐ Native Indian
- ☐ Other (Please Specify) _____

Please indicate your sex:

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

What year are you in school?

- ☐ High school

- College first-year
- College second-year
- College third-year
- College fourth-year
- College fifth- year or more
- Graduate student
- Other (please specify) _____

APPENDIX B

Sexual Assault Vignette and Questionnaire (SAV; Maurer, 2016)

Read the following scenario and answer the seven corresponding questions.

Matt and Jenny are hanging out at a bar. They are both over 21. They have just met and don't previously know each other. Matt and Jenny are both really drunk, slurring their speech, and stumbling around. They leave the bar, walk back to Jenny's place, and go inside. Once inside, Jenny passes out on her bed. Matt takes off her clothes and has sex with her while she is passed out. When he is finished, he gets into bed beside her and goes to sleep.

Jenny is entirely responsible

1

Jenny is mostly responsible

2

Neither person is responsible

3

Matt is mostly responsible

4

Matt is entirely responsible

5

Considering the above scale, who was responsible for what happened? _____

I strongly believe it was not rape

1

I believe it was not rape

2

undecided

3

I believe it was rape

4

I strongly believe it was rape

5

Considering the above scale, would you label what happened as "rape"? _____

<i>Totally unacceptable</i>	<i>Unacceptable</i>	<i>neither acceptable nor unacceptable</i>
1	2	3
<i>Acceptable</i>	<i>Totally acceptable</i>	
4	5	

Matt had sex with Jenny while she was passed out. Using the above scale, how acceptable is that? _____

<i>Not at all likely</i>	<i>Not likely</i>	<i>Neither likely nor unlikely</i>
1	2	3
<i>Likely</i>	<i>Very likely</i>	
4	5	

Using the above scale, how likely is it that Jenny will find out that Matt had sex with her while she was passed out? _____

Did the characters already know each other?

Yes *No*

1 2

Was Matt drunk?

Yes *No*

1 2

Did Matt leave after he was finished?

Yes *No*

1 2

APPENDIX C

Barratt Impulsiveness Scale-11 (BIS-11; Patton et al., 1995)

People differ in the ways they act and think in different situations. This is a test to measure some of the ways in which you act and think. Read each statement and indicate which number is most appropriate. Do not spend too much time on any statement. Answer quickly and honestly.

<i>Rarely/Never</i>	<i>Occasionally</i>	<i>Often</i>	<i>Almost Always/Always</i>
---------------------	---------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

1. I plan tasks carefully.
2. I do things without thinking.
3. I make-up my mind quickly.
4. I am happy-go-lucky.
5. I don't "pay attention."
6. I have "racing" thoughts.
7. I plan trips well ahead of time.
8. I am self controlled.
9. I concentrate easily.

10. I save regularly.
11. I “squirm” at plays or lectures.
12. I am a careful thinker.
13. I plan for job security.
14. I say things without thinking.
15. I like to think about complex problems.
16. I change jobs.
17. I act “on impulse.”
18. I get easily bored when solving thought problems.
19. I act on the spur of the moment.
20. I am a steady thinker.
21. I change residences.
22. I buy things on impulse.
23. I can only think about one thing at a time.
24. I change hobbies.

- 25. I spend or charge more than I earn.
- 26. I often have extraneous thoughts when thinking.
- 27. I am more interested in the present than the future.
- 28. I am restless at the theater or lectures.
- 29. I like puzzles.
- 30. I am future oriented.

APPENDIX D

Big Five Personality Inventory (BFI; John & Srivastava, 1999)

Here are a number of characteristics that may or may not apply to you. For example, do you agree that you are someone who likes to spend time with others? Please write a number next to each statement to indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with that statement.

Disagree Strongly Disagree a little Neither agree nor disagree Agree a little

1

2

3

4

Agree Strongly

5

I see Myself as Someone Who...

1. Is talkative. ____

2. Tends to find fault with others. ____

3. Does a thorough job. ____

4. Is depressed, blue. ____

5. Is original, comes up with new ideas. ____

6. Is reserved. ____

7. Is helpful and unselfish with others. ____
8. Can be somewhat careless. ____
9. Is relaxed, handles stress well. ____
10. Is curious about many different things. ____
11. Is full of energy. ____
12. Starts quarrels with others. ____
13. Is a reliable worker. ____
14. Can be tense. ____
15. Is ingenious, a deep thinker. ____
16. Generates a lot of enthusiasm. ____
17. Has a forgiving nature. ____
18. Tends to be disorganized. ____
19. Worries a lot. ____
20. Has an active imagination. ____
21. Tends to be quiet. ____

22. Is generally trusting. ____
23. Tends to be lazy. ____
24. Is emotionally stable, not easily upset. ____
25. Is inventive. ____
26. Has an assertive personality. ____
27. Can be cold and aloof. ____
28. Perseveres until the task is finished. ____
29. Can be moody. ____
30. Values artistic, aesthetic experiences. ____
31. Is sometimes shy, inhibited. ____
32. Is considerate and kind to almost everyone. ____
33. Does things efficiently. ____
34. Remains calm in tense situations. ____
35. Prefers work that is routine. ____
36. Is outgoing, sociable. ____

37. Is sometimes rude to others. ____
38. Makes plans and follows through with them. ____
39. Gets nervous easily. ____
40. Likes to reflect, play with ideas. ____
41. Has few artistic interests. ____
42. Likes to cooperate with others. ____
43. Is easily distracted. ____
44. Is sophisticated in art, music, or literature. ____

APPENDIX E

Informed Consent Form

Angelo State University

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Consent to Participate in an IRB-Approved Research Event

Project Title: Perceptions of Victimization, Impulsivity, and Personality Traits

Investigator Name/Department: Courtney Shields and Dr. Crystal Kreidler /Department of Psychology, Sociology and Social Work

Investigator Phone: 325-486-6122

You are being asked to participate in a research event conducted with the approval of the Angelo State University Institutional Review Board (and if applicable, other relevant IRB committees). In order to participate, you are required to give your consent after reading this document.

An explanation of the project is written below, which includes information about the purpose of the project, the procedures to be used, and the potential benefits and possible risks of participation. Please read and, should you decide to participate, indicate your agreement on this form. Upon request, you will be given an unsigned copy of this form for your records.

Refusal to participate in this study will have no effect on any future services you may be entitled to from the University. Anyone who agrees to participate in this study is free to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. Participants are free to skip any question that may make them uncomfortable. I understand also that it is not possible to identify all potential risks in a study, and I believe that reasonable safeguards have been taken to minimize both the known and potential but unknown risks.

1. Nature and Purpose of the Project

You are being asked to participate in an undergraduate faculty mentored research project at Angelo State University. The purpose of this study is to assess impulsivity and recognition of sexual assault. Therefore, you will be asked to read about a scenario involving sexual assault/rape. You are only permitted to participate once in the current study.

2. Explanation of Procedures.

Participants will complete a demographic survey, read a vignette and answer questions regarding the situation. Next, participants will be asked to complete the Impulsiveness Scale and a personality questionnaire. Completing the study will take approximately 30 minutes and participants will earn a half credit.

3. Discomfort and Risks.

The risks of participating in this study are minimal. However, some of the questions may cause some individuals to feel uncomfortable, and everyone has the right to omit answers to any questions without penalty. Individuals who have been raped or sexually assaulted may choose not to participate in this research as there might be a risk to their psychological well-being.

4. Benefits.

The findings from this study can add to the existing knowledge related to impulsivity and sexual assault, and can also give you firsthand experience in the research process.

5. Confidentiality.

Your confidentiality is important. Data will be accessible only to the researchers through a secure password-protected online data collection host, Psychdata. Data will be stored for a period of 3 years after which all data will be deleted. Data will be stored in a password-protected computer in Dr. Kreidler's locked lab. All data will be reported at the group level, and your name (or any other identifying information) will never be linked to your individual responses. You may risk a loss of confidentiality if you choose to email the researchers to ask for results of the study. If you choose to email the researchers, then the researchers will immediately delete such emails after responding to them. There is a potential risk of loss of confidentiality in all email, downloading, and Internet transactions. The results of this research will be presented at the undergraduate research symposium in the spring of 2018, which is free to all ASU students.

Agreement: By clicking on the continue button below you are indicating that you have read the above procedures and that you are consenting to voluntarily participate in this study.

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Angelo State University Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the protection of human subjects in research and research related activities. **IRB #KRE-082217 –Approved August 22, 2017.**

Any questions regarding the conduct of the project, questions pertaining to your rights as a research subject, or research-related injury should be brought to the attention of the IRB administrator, Dr. Tay Hack (tay@angelo.edu) TEL: (325) 942-2068, ext. 6121.

Any question about this specific research project should be brought to the attention of the investigator listed at the top of this form.

Click continue ONLY if you agree to participate.

Continue »

BIOGRAPHY

Courtney Amber Shields is originally from Abilene, Texas. She came to Angelo State University in the fall of 2015 after graduating from Wylie High School. She will be graduating in May of 2018 with her Bachelor of Science in Psychology and minor in Biology. She will be continuing her education in the Doctorate of Psychology in Clinical Psychology program at Nova Southeastern University beginning in the fall of 2018. While at Angelo State University, Courtney has been involved in many campus organizations such as the Honors Program, RAMbassadors, Psi Chi, and Psychology Ambassador club to name a few. Ms. Shields has worked with Dr. Crystal Kreidler and Dr. Drew Curtis on various projects dealing with sexual assault throughout her time at Angelo State University. Thus far, Courtney has published two articles, presented at the Southwestern Psychological Association's conference, and received a grant to conduct an independent research project over perceptions of victimization, impulsivity, and personality traits. Courtney may be reached at cat@camcat.net.